



Norden Division

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The Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization

Geographical Names Standardization





From the Divisions

Norden Division

News from the Norden Division Meeting in Copenhagen, 12 September 2015

The Norden Division held its annual meeting in Copenhagen in connection with the joint meeting of the Working Groups for on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Evaluation and Implementation, Publicity and Funding and the Norden Division in Copenhagen, 9-12 September 2015.

The Division meeting took place at the Department of Nordic Research at Copenhagen University on Saturday 12 September. The discussions showed that a number of developments have been under way in many of the Division's member countries, such as: Changes to acts dealing with geographical names in Norway and Sweden, as well as a geographical names law being proposed by Finland. A Danish pilot project focused on land mapping in Greenland, and the implementation of road and street addresses in Norway.

In addition, Norway and Denmark are working on new geographical names registers, whereas Finland is working on integration between its Geographical Names Register and its Map Name Register. Sweden has a crowd sourcing project between its national mapping agency, Lantmäteriet, and the Swedish municipalities. The result is 70.000 reported names of buildings, of which 36.000 have been incorporated in the Swedish geographical names register. Finland is working on a complete scanning of the geographical names archive. The actual scanning is complete, and the work is now focusing on making the information searchable.

Of additional items discussed were the homepage of the Norden Division, news from INSPIRE and EGN and the next Norden Division Meeting. For more information, please see the minutes from the meeting on the Norden Division homepage:
<http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/about/meetings/cph150912/>.

Next Norden Division Meetings

The next Norden Division Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 29th UNGEGN Session, 25-29 April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, it is hoped that it will be possible to hold the pre-Conference 2017 Norden Division meeting in Kárášjohka/Karasjok in Northern Norway.

Kárášjohka/Karasjok is the centre for Sámi culture in Norway, and it is an expressed ambition of the Norden Division to visit this language community.

Additional news

Division Secretary, John Jensen, retired just after the Copenhagen Norden Division meeting after serving as a representative of Denmark with UNGEGN for decades and Norden Division secretary since 2008. Danish Geodata Agency's Rune Lyngbo Kristensen is stepping in instead of John Jensen as new Norden Division secretary. Likewise, Leif Nilsson has also retired just after the Norden Division meeting as a long-serving representative for Sweden at UNGEGN. Replacing him is Leila Mattfolk, formerly representing Finland.

A number of new members have been added to the Norden Division since last, namely Ulla Onkamo and Maria Vidberg, both from the Institute for the Languages of Finland, Helsinki, as well as Berit Sandnes from the Norwegian Language Council, Trondheim. Welcome to the division! From 1 October 2015, Peder Gammeltoft, chair and representative of Denmark, has been appointed chairman of the Danish Place-Names Commission for the period 2015-2017.

The Norden Division homepage has received a slight overhaul with the most recent changes in regulations and procedures among the division countries now being up to date, as well as all text and links having been checked. Please visit our homepage: <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/>.

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